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# STUDIES ON THE NEARCTIC EUCHLOE

# PART 1. INTRODUCTION PAUL A. OPLER

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This paper will serve as the introduction for a series of papers which will present the results of an investigation primarily concerned with systematic placement of Nearctic members of the genus Euchloe Hübner. The genus Euchloe is composed of butterflies known as "marbles" which are members of the family Pieridae. The larvae of these insects feed upon species of Cruciferae. Populations of one or more species are found throughout most of the Nearctic Zoogeographic Region but occur most frequently in somewhat xeric habitats in the western United States and Canada. The taxonomic relationships of the Palaeartic and Ethiopian members of the genus are not considered in this study. Brief references will be made to the Old World entities in order to clarify important points relating to Nearctic members of the genus.

The author hopes to correct several faulty systematic concepts which have been applied to the Nearctic members of *Euchloe* for many years. These misunderstandings were due to the fact that the adults were identified by a few superficial external characteristics.

To correct the above stated situation, an attempt has been made to arrive at a more meaningful systematic treatment of the genus which will reflect probable phylogenetic relationships. This study presents the results of an analysis based on morphological, distributional, and ecological characteristics of all Nearctic members of the genus. Based on this analysis a workable systematic framework is presented.

Four species of Nearctic Euchloe are recognized: E. ausonides (Lucas), E. creusa (Doubleday), E. olympia (Edwards), and E. hyantis (Edwards). These are believed to be phylogenetically and morphologically divisible into two species groups. One is comprised of E. ausonides, E. creusa and E. olympia, and will be referred to as the E. ausonides group. The other is composed of E. hyantis and its several segregates; this group will be referred to as the E. hyantis complex.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>The bulk of the material presented in this series of papers was part of a thesis presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts at San Jose State College, San Jose, California. Dr. J. W. Tilden of the above institution was research advisor.

Two new combinations will be presented as subspecific designations of *E. hyantis* in a later paper.

Below are the titles of the papers which are anticipated for

this series.

- Part 1: INTRODUCTION
- Part 2: CHRONOLOGICAL LITERATURE REVIEW AND BIBLIOGRAPHY
- Part 3: COMPLETE SYNONYMICAL TREATMENT
- Part 4: TYPE INFORMATION
- Part 5 DISTRIBUTION
- Part 6: ADULT MORPHOLOGY AND KEY TO IDENTI-FICATION
- Part 7: LARVAL MORPHOLOGY AND KEY TO IDENTIFICATION
- Part 8: BIONOMICS
- Part 9: DISCUSSION AND SUMMARY

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#### PART 2. CHRONOLOGICAL REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

THE FIRST PORTION OF THIS PAPER will deal with the development of the concepts concerning the specific status of the Euchloe of the Nearctic Region. The second portion is a complete bibliographic listing of all of the literature which is cited in the papers of this series.

# CHRONOLOGICAL REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

In this review opinions of all authors which contain contributions to development of concepts concerning the status of Nearctic Euchloe are given. Personal interpretations are made by this writer for the sake of bringing clarity to past opinions which, in the view of the author, are often illogical or nebulous due to the presentation of insufficient information.

As an aid in evaluation of this study a brief synonomy of the names that have been proposed for Nearctic Euchloe is presented:

Euchloe (Euchloe)

1. ausonides (Lucas), 1852 Var. flavidalis Comstock, 1924 Var. semiflava Comstock, 1924 ab. boharti Doudoroff, 1930 (coloradensis) ab. hemiflava Field, 1936 A. ausonides coloradensis (Hy. Edw.), 1881 (belia belioides) race montana Verity, 1908 B. ausonides mayi Chermock & Chermock, 1940

2. olympia (Edwards), 1871
A. olympia rosa (Edwards), 1871
3. creusa Doubleday), 1847
Var. elsa Beutenmüller, 1898
(belia) var. orientalides Verity (Partim.), 1908

(belia) var. orientalides Verity (Partim.), 1908
4. hyantis (Edwards), 1871
(belia) var. pseudoausonides Verity, 1908
A. hyantis lotta Beutenmüller, 1908 New Combination
(creusa) ab. pumilio Strand, 1914
(belia) var. orientalides Verity (partim.), 1908
B. hyantis andrewsi Martin, 1936 New Combination

Doubleday & Hewitson (1847) named Euchloe creusa as the first entity of the genus for North America based on specimens collected in the Rocky Mountains of Canada by Lord Derby. [Westwood died before date of publication] No description was given, and the identity of the form was based only on a type specimen [not designated] and an inadequate plate figure.

Lucas (1852) described Euchloe ausonides on the basis of specimens collected in California by Lorquin. No figure was included, but lengthy descriptions of both sexes were given.

Boisduval (1852) mentioned the name ausonides in a paper on the butterflies of California. Boisduval was credited as the author of the name in many citations due to a misunderstanding of publication dates. Dos Passos (1962) gave detailed information concerning the dates of publication of the papers in question on the basis of which Lucas is credited with the authorship of *ausonides*.

Edwards (1863) redescribed *ausonides* from California, Canada, and Colorado. It is interesting that this description could be applied to any of the Nearctic entities with the possible exception of *Euchloe olympia*.

Edwards (1871) described *Euchloe hyantis* from specimens collected at Mendocino City, Mendocino County, California by R. H. Stretch.

Strecker (1878) treated ausonides as a variety of Euchloe ausonia, a Palaearctic form.

Henry Edwards (1881) described *Euchloe ausonides colora-densis*. This name was proposed as a new species according to the taxonomic usage which was in practice at that time. The description included was just sufficiently detailed to establish the identity of the insect. The type was collected by T. L. Mead in June, 1871 while he was in Colorado with the Wheeler Geographical Expedition.

Beutenmüller (1898) wrote the only revision of the Nearctic Euchloe prior to the present study. In this revision the author revised his opinions from those expressed in his paper of 1897. He introducted two new names, Euchloe lotta described as a specific entity, and Euchloe creusa elsa, which has been subsequently treated as a synonym of creusa. The name lotta was proposed for the entity found in the Artemisian Biome and deserts of the southwestern United States. Previously, the name creusa had been applied to these populations, which Beutenmüller correctly realized were not conspecific with creusa. Although Beutenmüller's concept had an insight into relationships involved, he not only did not explain the reasons for his arrangement of the entities within the genus, but incorrectly considered the name hyantis to be a synonym of creusa.

Butler (1899b) published a paper in response to the work of Beutenmüller (1898) in which Butler stated that all Nearctic

entities were forms of ausonides.

Beutenmüller (1899) stated, in a reply to the comments of Butler (1899b), "I concluded that it would be best to allow the species to remain distinct until more light could be obtained on the subject." He then proceeded to elaborate on his concept pertaining to the identities of *creusa* and *hyantis lotta*.

Browning (1901), in a faunal paper on the Rhopalocera of the Salt Lake City, Utah, region, figured a specimen of *hyantis lotta*. He correctly applied the name *lotta* to the specimen, but incorrectly assumed it to be a variety of *ausonides*, which can be seen immediately by referring to the above mentioned plate.

Franck (1905) stated that he believed the name *hyantis* to represent a subspecific entity of *ausonides* and that the name *coloradensis* was a synonym of *hyantis*. No basis was given for this idea.

The probable identity of *Euchloe* illustrated by Wright (1906) indicates that in only one or two cases is it possible that the collection data are correct.

Coolidge (1908) attempted to present an arrangement of Nearctic entities which would eliminate the wide range of differing treatments of the genus. He placed *lotta* and *hyantis* as subspecific names under *creusa* and placed *coloradensis* as a synonym of *ausonides*. This arrangement, in an only slightly modified form, was restated by Barnes and McDunnough (1916), and gradually assumed the position as the "correct" treatment of the Nearctic members of the genus. This concept was given no bilogical or morphological basis.

Verity (1908) attempted to enforce upon the new world members of the genus *Euchloe* a biological phenomenon which was well documented in the Palaearctic Region, *i.e.*, the occurrence of two morphologically distinct seasonal forms for each entity. Several unnecessary new names and some very unwieldy nomenclatorial combinations resulted. The types of *ausonides* and

creusa were figured in this work.

Strand (1914) described an aberration *hyantis lotta* from Oregon by the name *pumilio*. He incorrectly used the name in combination with *creusa*.

Barnes and McDunnough (1916) gave a lengthy discussion of their opinions of the relationships of North American members of *Euchloe*. Although the authors reinforced the erroneous arrangement initiated by Coolidge (1908), they corrected the mistake by Verity concerning the presence of seasonal forms in the Nearctic Region by placing all of Verity's names in synonymy. They also correctly considered the name *elsa* to be a synonym of *creusa*, and raised *coloradensis* from synonymy as a subspecies of *ausonides*.

Barnes and McDunnough (1917) presented the arrangement of the Nearctic entities of the genus *Euchloe* which was to be followed for many years. The following citations repeated the

treatment of Barnes and McDunnough: Barnes and Benjamin. (1926), Comstock (1927), and dos Passos (1964).

Comstock (1924) described two varietal color forms of female ausonides, which were collected from the poplations which occur in the vicinity of San Francisco Bay, California. Comstock evidently did not know that one of these color forms, semiflava, is nomal for the females of this species, since the hindwing of the female in other species does not show a contrast in pigmentation with the forewing. The variation in pigmentation of this group will be presented in greater detail in a later paper of this series.

Coolidge (1925) described the life history of *Euchloe hyantis* lotta on the basis of material collected in the western Mojave Desert of California. Coolidge repeated his mistake of an earlier paper (Coolidge, 1908) by associating the name hyantis with *Euchloe creusa*.

Comstock (1927) in "Butterflies of California" introduced two somewhat erroneous concepts which were perpetuated because of the popularity which this book attained. Although Comstock figured specimens of ausonides coloradensis from Colorado, he stated in the text that this subspecies "is occasionally taken in the high mountains of California". This statement led to the practice of referring to all specimens of Euchloe collected in the Sierra Nevada as "Euchloe ausonides coloradensis". Some small isolated populations of ausonides are to be found in the Sierra Nevada; however, most population of Euchloe in that range are hyantis. The latter situation and the fact that Comstock's treatment of hyantis was somewhat nebulous led to misunderstandings of hyantis.

Doudoroff (1930) gave to a melanic specimen of *Euchloe* ausonides the name boharti.

Klots (1930b) reported *E. creusa* from Teton County, Wyoming. Specimens from this collection have been examined by the author and proved to represent *hyantis lotta*.

Holland (1931) figured the type of *hyantis* and a specimen which may represent the type of *Euchloe hyantis lotta*. Holland treated the names *ausonides* and *coloradensis* conspecifically, and considered the names *creusa*, *lotta*, and *hyantis* to represent separate species. His statement of the distribution of the latter entities showed that he had no clear concept of their relationships.

Field (1936) described a male color form of *Euchloe ausonides* from Utah in which the "upper surface of the secondaries [was] suffused over with yellow". Not only did Field incorrectly attribute this specimen to the name *coloradensis*, but he may have been incorrect in assuming that it was a male.

Martin (1936) described a population of *Euchloe* from the San Bernardino Mountains of southern California. He gave to this race the name *andrewsi* in honor of the collector, R. H. Andrews. This population should be referred to as a subspecific category of *Euchloe hyantis* rather than of *Euchloe ausonides* as it has been treated.

Chermock and Chermock (1940) described *Euchloe ausonides* mayi, a distinctive population from the Riding Mountains of Manitoba.

Brooks (1942) erroneously considered ausonides coloradensis to occur in Manitoba.

Leighton (1946) reported creusa and "Euchloe creusa hyantis" as occurring in eastern Washington. The insects referred to by these two names were probably specimens of Euchloe hyantis lotta. Newcomer (1964) followed this procedure in reporting creusa from Yakima County, Washington.

Bauer (1953) applied the name creusa to hyantis lotta from Arizona.

Brown (1955) used the name creusa to represent specimens of hyantis lotta from western Colorado. Brown showed that he was aware of difference between hyantis lotta and ausonides coloradensis by his list of differentiating characteristics in the appearances of the two entities.

Powell (1958) and others have used the combination ausonides andrewsi to refer to specimens of Euchloe from the peninsular ranges of Baja California Norte. Populations of Euchloe from the peninsular ranges of southern California, and Baja California Norte, referrable to hyantis, do not represent the names andrewsi or lotta.

Ehrlich and Ehrlich (1961) used the names Euchloe ausonides, Euchloe olympia, and Euchloe creusa to represent all of the entities of Euchloe found in the Nearctic Region. The authors state that Euchloe creusa "is only doubtfully distinct from Euchloe ausonides."

Garth and Tilden (1963) followed the usage of Comstock (1927) in reporting "Euchloe creusa hyantis" and Euchloe ausonides coloradensis from the central Sierra Nevada of California.

Storer and Usinger (1963) used the name "Euchloe coloradensis" in referring to a Euchloe found in the Sierra Nevada of California.

Dos Passos (1964) adds the dates of the original citations for all of the names involved, his arrangement is little changed from that of Barnes and McDunnough (1917)

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